

NEWS

From County Supervisor Paul Biane

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Crest Forest Family Service Agency receives funding

SAN BERNARDIO – On Tuesday, the Board of Supervisors approved a contract with the Crest Forest Family Service Agency that will provide the agency with \$222,932 in federal grant money to expand, improve and maintain its outreach facility.

"The Crest Forest Family Service Agency provides a great deal of assistance to needy residents, and the current facility needs to be revamped to meet the community's needs," said Board of Supervisors Chairman Paul Biane, who requested federal grant funds for the agency.

The Crest Forest Family Services Agency will use a portion of the funds to reinforce flooring so it can store more food and grocery products that are regularly distributed to low- and moderate-income residents. About 1,400 people receive products from the agency's food bank every month. The funds will also allow the agency to provide additional space for counseling programs and other services.

Elaine Slater, an administrative program coordinator with the Crest Forest Family Service Agency, said the CDBG funds will help the agency provide services to its growing clientele.

"We are just busting at the seams here," she said. "We need the space desperately."

The \$222,932 allocated to the Crest Forest Family Services Agency comes from the County's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) budget. The federal government provides CDBG funds to local governments so they can supply funding for various community programs and organizations.

Slater said the CDBG funding is vital for the agency's ongoing operations.

"We are a totally no-fringe nonprofit agency, "she said. "We do not have any huge pools of money to invest in the building."

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